

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ACCRA 02538 011710Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /060 W
-----078231 011712Z /43

O R 011303Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
OG RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2939
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 2538

LAGOS FOR MOOSE LAKE

LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PINS, GH
SUBJ: GHANA REFERENDUM

REF: ACCRA 2453

1. AS OF MORNING APRIL 1, GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS IS CLAIMING VICTORY FOR HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMPONG'S UNION GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL BY A MARGIN OF JUST OVER 54 PER CENT OF 1,756,354 TOTAL VOTES COUNTED THUS FAR. APPROXIMATELY A DOZEN CONSTITUENCIES HAVE YET TO BE HEARD FROM, BUT THEY ARE SMALLER RURAL DISTRICTS WHOSE VOTES ARE NOT LIKELY TO CHANGE OUTCOME. VOTING HAS BEEN GENERALLY QUIET AND ORDERLY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

2. WE SHOULD TREAT THESE FIGURES WITH SOME SUSPICION,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ACCRA 02538 011710Z

HOWEVER, FOR SOME OPPOSITION ELEMENTS ARE, AS WE EXPECTED, ALREADY CRYING FOUR AND CLAIMING REFERENDUM WAS RIGGED. PART OF SUSPICION DERIVES FROM FACT THAT THE RESPECTED ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER, MR. JUSTICE I.K. ABBAN, REPORTEDLY WENT INTO HIDING AFTER A CONFRONTATION WITH MILITARY AUTHORITIES ON MARCH 30. EXACT DETAILS ARE NOT YET CLEAR, BUT OPPOSITION IS SEIZING UPON

ABBAN'S DISAVPEARANCE AS FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT ACHEAMPONG HAS SOMEHOW DOCTORED RESULTS TO ENSURE A MAJORITY FOR UNION GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO GOG'S OWN TALLIES, AS CARRIED IN APRIL 1 PRESS, EASTERN REGION, BRONG-AHAFRO REGION AND ASHANTI REGION (ACHEAMPONG'S OWN HOME AREA), ALL VOTED HEAVILY AGAINST UNION GOVERNMENT. OTHER SIX REGIONS SUPPORTED IT. PROVIDING THE DIFFERENCE NECESSARY FOR A MAJORITY IN FAVOR OF IT.

3. IN ABSENCE OF ABBAN, IT IS NOT YESSCLEAR HOW OR WHEN OFFICIAL RESULTS CAN BE CERTIFIED, AND UNCERTAINTY MAY EXTEND INTO NEXT WEEK. ACCRA IS QUIET, BUT OPPOSITION ELEMENTS ARE SEETHING AND POTENTIAL FOR SOME CLASHES OR DISTURBANCES IS VERY MUCH PRESENT.

4. IN LIGHT OF CURRENT CONFUSING SITUATION AND IN ABSENCE OF OFFICIAL AND CERTIFIED RESULTS, BELIEVE WE SHOULD WAIT UNTIL DUST SETTLE FURTHER BEFORE MAKING ANY JUDGMENTS ABOUT VALIDITY OR FAIRNESS OF REFERENDUM. SIZABLE "NO" VOTE AGAINST UNION GOVERNMENT ALREADY ACKNOWLEDGED BY GOG MUST BE A SERIOUS BLOW TO ACHEAMPONG, WHO BADLY WANTED A MASSIVE "YES" VOTE. SMITH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, REFERENDUMS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, FORM OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ACCRA02538
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780142-0482
Format: TEL
From: ACCRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197804104/aaaadkeg.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6a6d35a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ACCRA 2453
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2827426
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GHANA REFERENDUM
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PINS, SOPN, GH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6a6d35a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014